



WHICH IS WHY
HE TRULY HOPES
"SUSPECT S"... ISN'T
YOUR FATHER.

Solo Leveling

Art · DUBU (REDICE STUDIO)

Original Novel · Chugong

Story · h-goon

149



HE SAID HE DOESN'T
EVER WANT TO FIGHT YOU,
SO I DON'T THINK IT WAS
MEANT TO BE A SNIDE
REMARK.

IT'S ALL RIGHT.


MR. SUNG.

COULD YOU
SPARE US A FEW
MINUTES?




IT'S
BEEN A WHILE,
MR. SLUNG.







IT'S
THE UPGRADER,
NORMA SELNER...
WHAT IS SHE
DOING HERE?



YES,
IT HAS. I WASN'T
EXPECTING ANOTHER
VISIT FROM YOU...



LATELY,
I'VE BEEN HAVING
THE SAME DREAM
EVERY NIGHT.



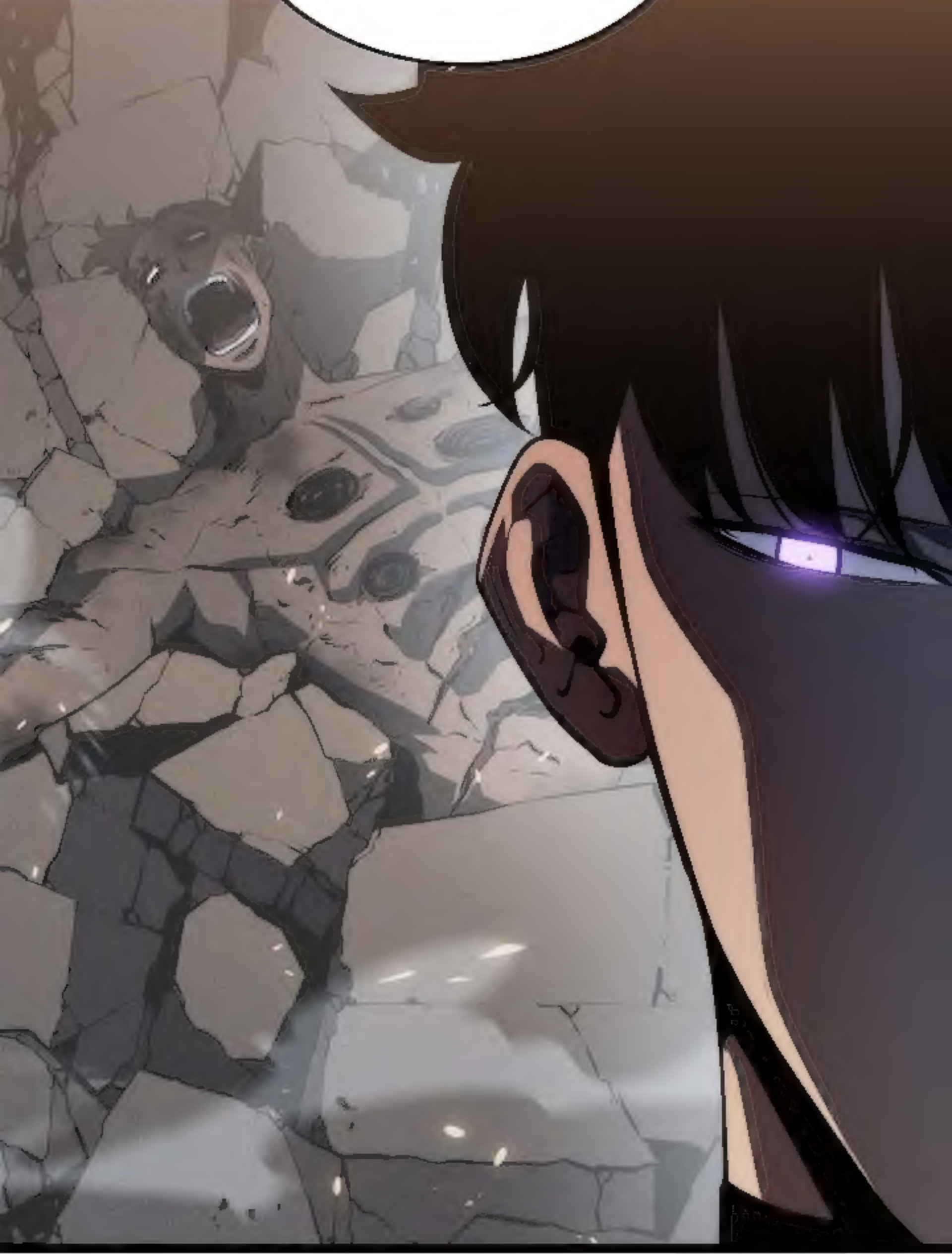
A DREAM WHERE
THE GREATEST
HUNTERS ARE BEING
HUNTED DOWN BY
SOMEONE.

THEN A FEW
DAYS LATER, THIS
DREAM BECOMES
A REALITY.

IS THAT WHAT
HAPPENED TO
CHRISTOPHER,
TOO...?

WE WARNED
CHRISTOPHER, BUT...
HE DIDN'T LISTEN
TO US.

AND AS A
RESULT... WELL,
I'M SURE YOU'RE
ALREADY WELL
AWARE.



POWERFUL
HUNTERS WHO HAVE
BEEN PROTECTING
OUR WORLD WILL
CONTINUE TO DIE.



THE BEINGS THAT
ARE HUNTING THEM
DOWN WILL STOP
AT NOTHING.

SO... ARE YOU
WARNING ME TO BE
CAREFUL OF THEM
AS WELL?

NO.

***I WANT YOU
TO PROTECT
THE HUNTERS.***

I TRIED MY BEST
TO REMEMBER THE
ASSAILANTS' FACES
IN MY RECURRING
DREAM...



...BUT I WAS
UNSUCCESSFUL.

SO I DECIDED TO
TRY A DIFFERENT
METHOD.



I DECIDED TO USE
MY ABILITY TO SEE
WHO THEY REALLY
WERE FROM WITHIN
MY DREAM.

THEN THAT TIME
YOU LOOKED INTO
MY EYES WAS
ALSO TO...?

...

YES.

I FOUND
LIMITLESS POWER
ROOTED IN
THEM...

AND WHEN
I LOCKED EYES WITH
"THAT THING," I HAD
NO CHOICE BUT TO
WAKE UP.

I CAN
STILL VIVIDLY
REMEMBER...

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

...THE VOICE THAT
SPOKE TO ME WHEN
OUR EYES MET.


WHAT EXACTLY
DID "THAT THING"
SAY?




*TO GO
BACK...*



*...AND
PATIENTLY WAIT
FOR THE WAR.*




IT'S WHAT
THE KING OF THE
GIANTS TOLD ME
ABOUT...




THE BATTLE
BETWEEN THE
RULERS AND THE
MONARCHS.




THEN...



THE GUYS
WHO ARE AFTER
THE HUNTERS...
WHOSE SIDE ARE
THEY ON?



BUT WHAT DOES
THIS HAVE TO DO WITH
YOUR REQUEST?




...I SAW THE SAME
POWER WITHIN YOU,
MR. SUNG.

...

DID SHE SEE THE
SHADOW MONARCH'S
POWER INSIDE OF
ME THAT DAY?


IF THE ASSAILANTS
IN HER DREAM HAD
THE SAME POWER,
THEN...

...THEY MUST BE
MONARCHS.



THESE BEINGS
FAR SURPASS THE
CAPABILITIES OF
HUNTERS.

SO IN ORDER TO
STOP THEM, WE NEED
A HUNTER LIKE YOU,
SOMEONE WHO CAN
STAND ON EQUAL
FOOTING WITH
THEM.



TO BE HONEST,
WE WERE SKEPTICAL
WHEN WE WERE TOLD
THAT YOU WERE THE ONLY
ONE OUT THERE WHO
COULD PROTECT THE
OTHER HUNTERS, BUT...

...AFTER SEEING YOUR
FIGHT WITH MR. ANDRE
YESTERDAY, WE CHANGED
OUR MINDS.



OF COURSE,
WE DON'T EXPECT
YOU TO HELP US
FOR FREE.

WE ARE
WILLING TO GIVE YOU
ANYTHING YOU WANT... EVEN
THE RUNE STONE, THE MOST
VALUABLE TREASURE THAT
KAMISH LEFT BEHIND.

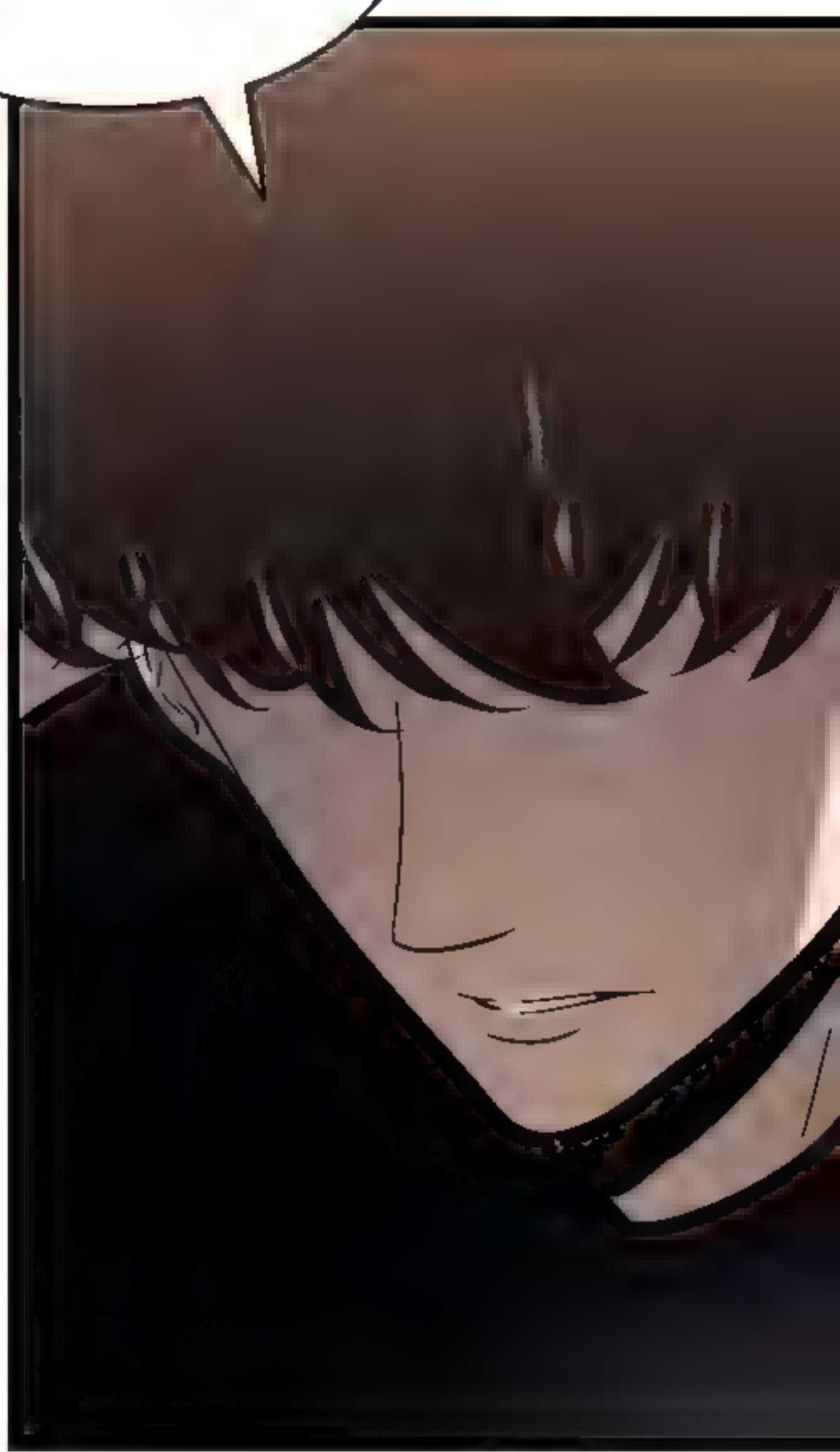
THERE ARE HUNTERS IN
THIS WORLD WHO HAVE
RECEIVED A GREAT
BLESSING.


AND THEIR
POWERS HAVE KEPT
THE WORLD SAFE.

WITHOUT THEM,
THE WORLD WILL
FALL APART.

...

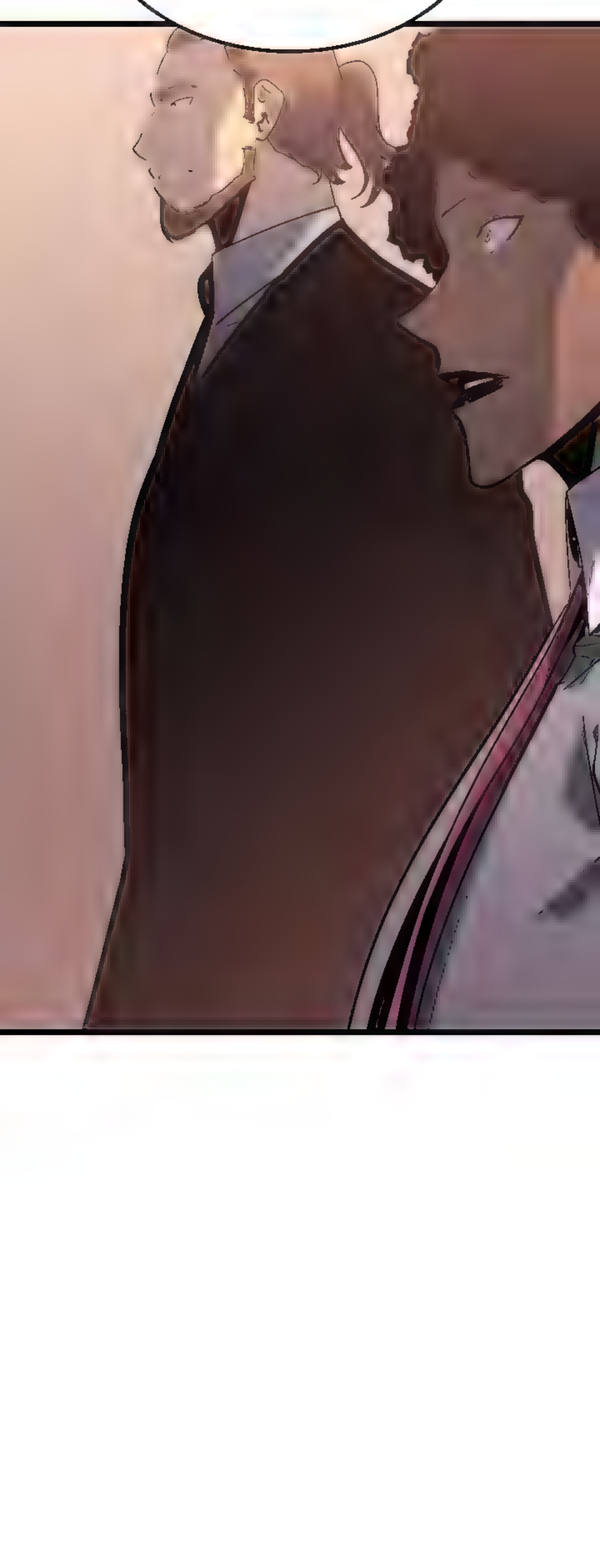
...I'M SORRY.





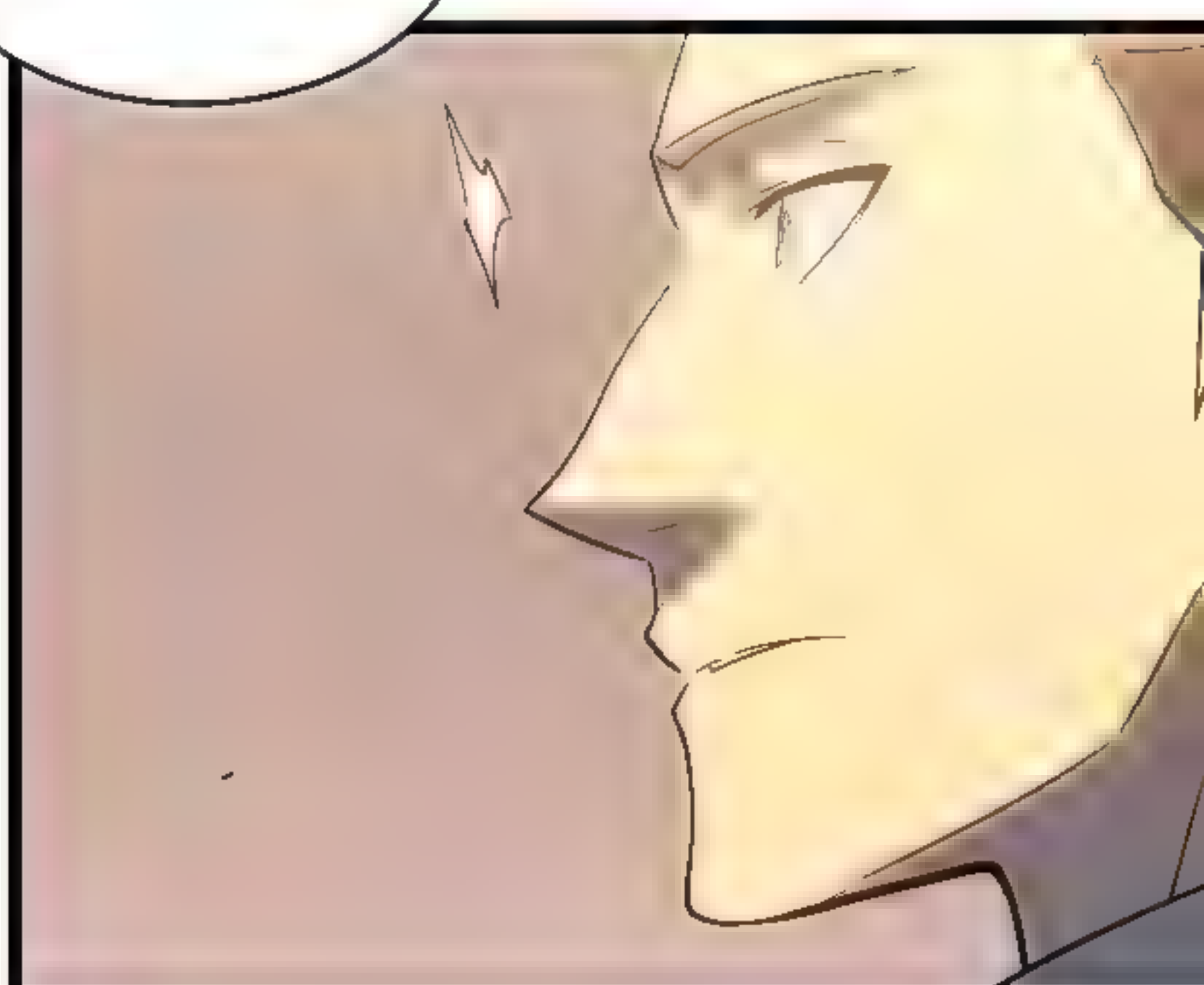
IS IT BECAUSE
YOU STILL HOLD A
GRUDGE AGAINST
MR. ANDRE...?

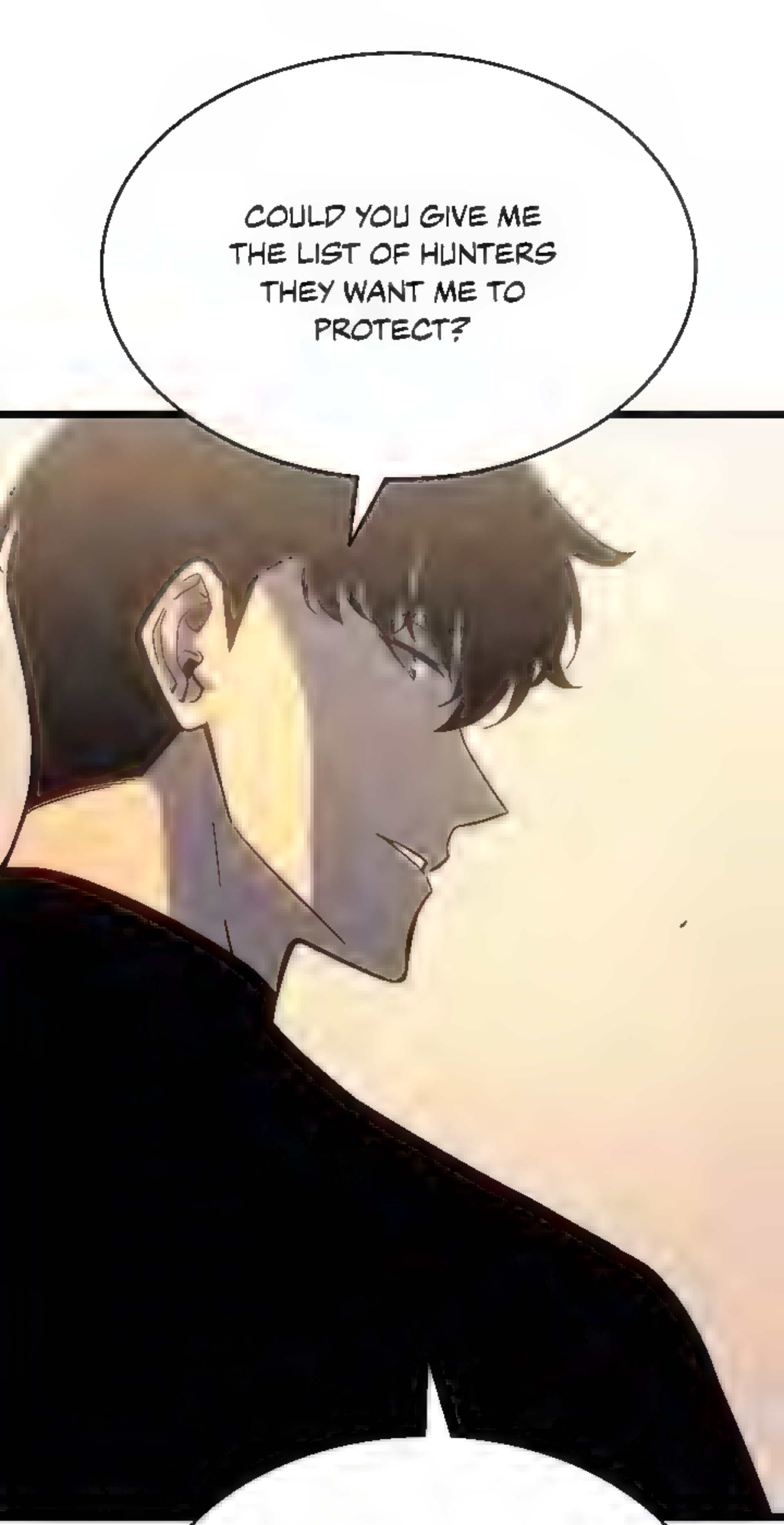
NO, THAT'S
NOT IT.



**IT'S BECAUSE
I DON'T YET KNOW
WHO I SHOULD
BE FIGHTING
AGAINST.**







COULD YOU GIVE ME
THE LIST OF HUNTERS
THEY WANT ME TO
PROTECT?

I'D ALSO APPRECIATE
IT IF YOU COULD SET UP
A MEETING WITH THE
INDIVIDUALS ON THAT
LIST.



OF COURSE!


AN EVENT HOSTED BY
THE BUREAU OF HUNTERS
ON THE LAST DAY OF
THE INTERNATIONAL
GUILD CONFERENCE...




*THE NIGHT OF
THE HUNTERS.*




HOW'S
YOUR BODY
HOLDING
UP?




IT FEELS
BETTER THAN
EVER, SIR!




WHEN I HEARD YOU
DUKED IT OUT WITH THOMAS
ANDRE, THE MAN PEOPLE
CALL "GOLIATH," IN ORDER
TO PROTECT ME, I...




HEY, LOOK
OVER THERE...



I SAW. HE'S RIGHT
IN FRONT OF US, BUT
I CAN'T FEEL HIS
PRESENCE AT ALL.



HE'S ON A
DIFFERENT
LEVEL.



THEN THE HUNTER
NEXT TO HIM MUST
BE...?



SUNG JINWOO
FOUGHT THOMAS
ANDRE TO RESCUE
THAT GUY?


IT'S AN HONOR
TO MEET YOU,
MR. SUNG.

I'M THE CEO
OF A COMPANY
THAT SPECIALIZES
IN HANDLING THE
DISPOSAL OF MAGIC
BEAST REMAINS.



I'M INTERESTED
IN PURCHASING
THE GIANTS YOU
DEFEATED.

MAY I HAVE
A MOMENT OF
YOUR TIME?




NICE TIMING.

A man with short brown hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and dark tie, is looking towards a woman on the right. The woman has dark hair and is wearing a dark top. The background is a warm, orange-toned setting.

I'M MOSTLY IN CHARGE OF
RAIDS, WHILE MY VICE GUILD
MASTER OVER HERE TAKES
CARE OF THE BUSINESS
SIDE OF THINGS.

I'M YOO JINHO,
THE VICE GUILD
MASTER OF AHJIN
GUILD.



A man with short brown hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and dark tie, is smiling and looking towards a woman on the right. The woman has dark hair and is wearing a dark top. The background is a warm, orange-toned setting.

AH, HELLO. IT'S
A PLEASURE TO
MEET YOU.

I DON'T USUALLY TALK
BUSINESS AT EVENTS
LIKE THIS, BUT...

...I'LL MAKE AN
EXCEPTION. JUST

EXERCISE, JUST
FOR YOU.

PFFT

HE'S REALLY
GROWN INTO HIS OWN
AS A VICE GUILD
MASTER.

MR. SUNG, HERE
IS THE LIST YOU
ASKED FOR.

EXTEND

THE BUREAU RANKS
ALL HUNTERS WITH A POINT
SYSTEM BASED ON THEIR
ACHIEVEMENTS.

THE 10 HUNTERS
LISTED HERE HAVE
THE HIGHEST NUMBER
OF POINTS.

IF YOU ACCEPT
OUR REQUEST, THESE

OUR RESULTS, THESE
ARE THE INDIVIDUALS
YOU'LL BE ASKED TO
PROTECT.

SO THESE
PEOPLE ARE
YOUR HIGHEST
PRIORITY.

HUNTER POINTS,
HUH...?

WHERE DO
I RANK AMONG
THESE HUNTERS?

IF YOUR
VICTORY OVER THE
GIANTS IS TAKEN INTO
CONSIDERATION,

YOU'D
PROBABLY BE IN
THIRD OR FOURTH
PLACE.



FIRST PLACE IS THOMAS
ANDRE, SECOND PLACE
IS LIU ZHIGANG, THIRD
PLACE IS CHRISTOPHER
REED, FOURTH PLACE IS
SIDDHARTH BACHCHAN,
AND FIFTH PLACE IS...

WHAT A PAIN.
I'LL JUST ASSIGN A
SHADOW TO ALL OF THEM
INSTEAD OF MEMORIZING
EACH AND EVERY
NAME.

AND IT JUST SO
HAPPENS, THIS IS THE
PERFECT PLACE TO SEND
OUT MY SHADOW
SOLDIERS.





I'LL USE
THE HUNTERS TO
APPROACH THE
MONARCHS...

FSSHHH

THEN I'LL BE
ABLE TO TELL
WHO'S A FRIEND
AND WHO'S A
FOE...

...AND FIGURE
OUT HOW TO FIGHT
AGAINST THE
OPPOSING SIDE.





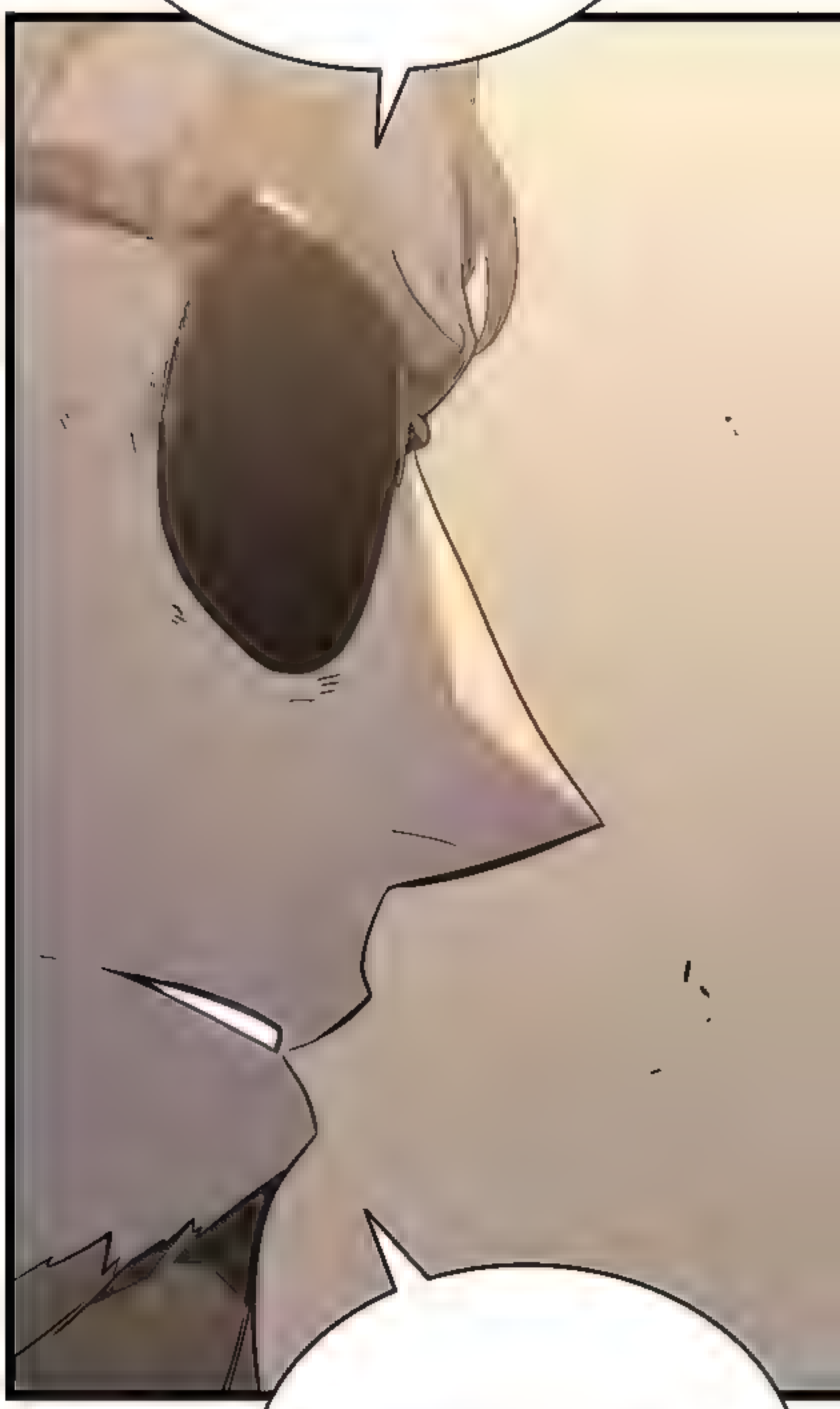
LET ME
ASK YOU ONE
THING.

I'M TOLD THAT THIS
ARM... CAN'T BE TREATED
BY THE HEALERS BECAUSE
THE MANA DAMAGE IS
TOO SEVERE.



MY DOCTOR ALSO SAID
THE SAME THING. THAT EVEN
THOUGH MY ARM IS HEALING
SLOWLY, IT'S GONNA TAKE
A WHILE FOR IT TO FULLY
RECOVER.

YOU WERE MORE
THAN CAPABLE OF NOT
ONLY FINISHING ME OFF,
BUT ALSO WIPING OUT
THE MEMBERS OF
MY GUILD.



BUT AMIDST ALL THAT
CHAOS, NOT A SINGLE
PERSON DIED.

THAT IS,
ASIDE FROM
MR. HWANG,
THE ONE WHO
STARTED
IT ALL.



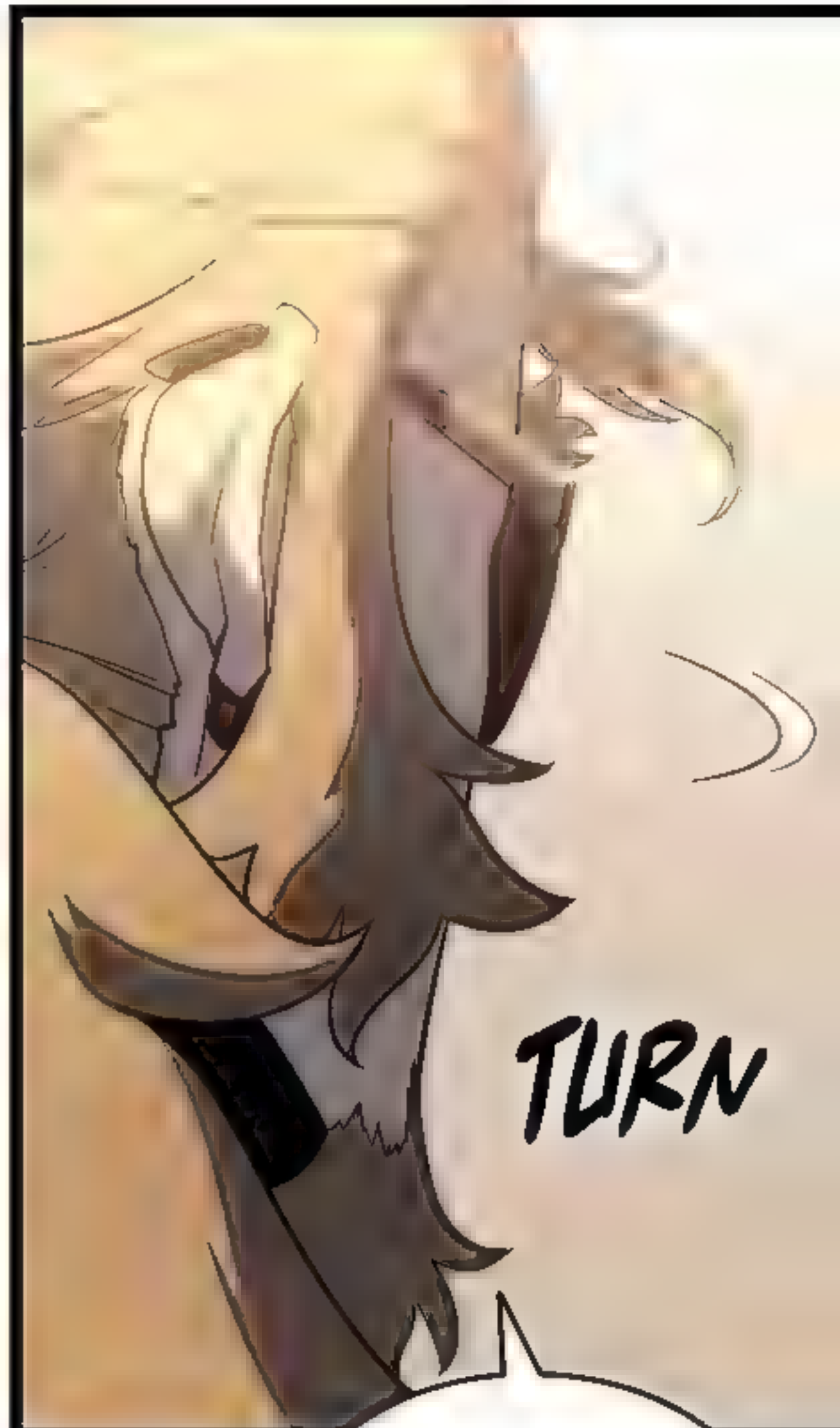


WHY... DID
YOU SPARE OUR
LIVES?



**BECAUSE NONE
OF YOU COMMITTED
A CRIME THAT WAS
GRAVE ENOUGH TO
WARRANT DEATH.**





TURN

...I SEE.


I'M PLANNING ON
GOING ALL OUT FOR
MR. HWANG'S FUNERAL
SERVICE.



I KNOW THAT HE
COMMITTED A SERIOUS
CRIME, BUT I HOPE YOU
WILL AT LEAST LET
HIM HAVE A PROPER
FUNERAL.

OH, ALSO. LET'S
GRAB A BITE ONCE
MY ARM'S BETTER.





IF YOU LEAVE YOUR
NUMBER WITH MY
MANAGER, I'LL GET
IN TOUCH WITH YOU
SOMETIME.


MR. ANDRE IS
THANKING YOU...

...FOR
SPARING HIS GUILD
MEMBERS.


BOW



HE MAY NOT
LOOK IT, BUT HE'S
ACTUALLY QUITE
SHY.




MR. SUNG.
IF IT ISN'T TOO MUCH
TROUBLE, COULD YOU
TELL ME YOUR CONTACT
INFORMATION?




MR. ANDRE WOULD
ALSO LIKE TO THANK
YOU WITH A GIFT,

SO PLEASE
LET ME KNOW IF
THERE'S ANYTHING
YOU WANT.


OH, THANK
YOU, BUT I'M
ALL RIGHT.



MR. ANDRE...
CAN'T STAND BEING
INDEBTED TO ANYONE
BECAUSE OF HIS HIGHLY
COMPETITIVE NATURE.




SO PLEASE TELL
ME WHAT YOU WANT.
ANYTHING IS OKAY.



HE WANTS TO
THANK ME WITH
A GIFT...?


A GOOD
DAGGER WOULD
BE NICE...




A DAGGER...
UNDERSTOOD.
THANK YOU,
MR. SUNG.

NOW THEN,
WOULD YOU LIKE TO
MEET THE HUNTERS
ON THE LIST?

LET ME
ESCORT YOU.




NO, THERE'S
NO NEED FOR
THAT.



BUT WHY IS ONE
OF THEM MISSING? I
DON'T SEE THE SIXTH
PLACE HUNTER.

HOW DID YOU...



WE LOST CONTACT
WITH HIM A FEW
DAYS BEFORE THE
CONFERENCE.

THE BRAZILLIAN
GOVERNMENT HAS
BEEN SEARCHING FOR
HIM IN SECRET, BUT HIS
WHEREABOUTS ARE
STILL UNKNOWN.

DID THEY GET
HIM ALREADY?



THAT MEANS
THERE ARE SEVEN
PEOPLE LEFT.



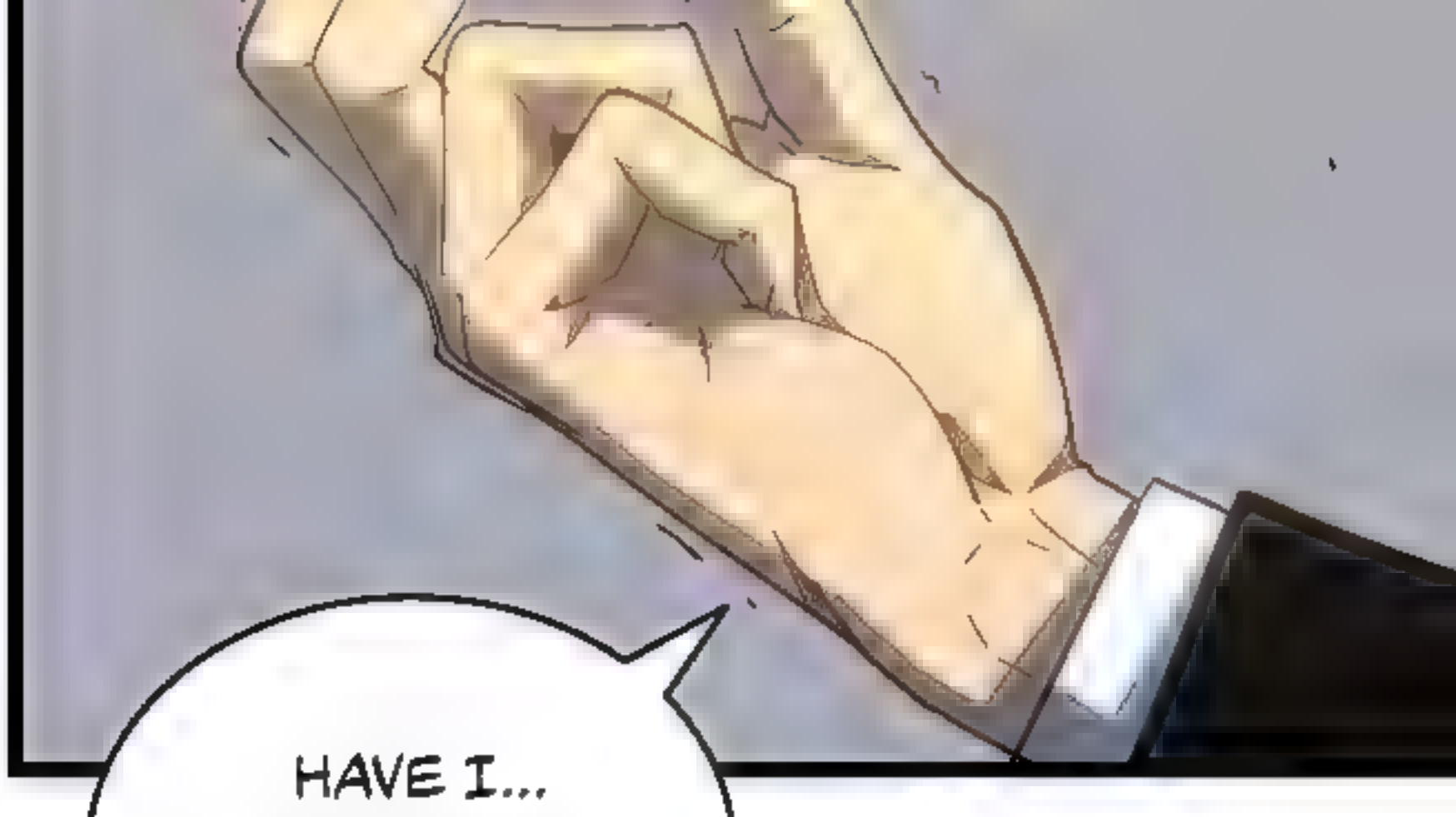


HMM... HOW
STRANGE.


I KEEP
EXPERIENCING HEART
PALPITATIONS.

I'VE HAD PROBLEMS
WITH MY HEART FOR A
WHILE NOW, BUT...

...IT'S GOTTEN A LOT
WORSE LATELY.



HAVE I...
REACHED
MY LIMIT?

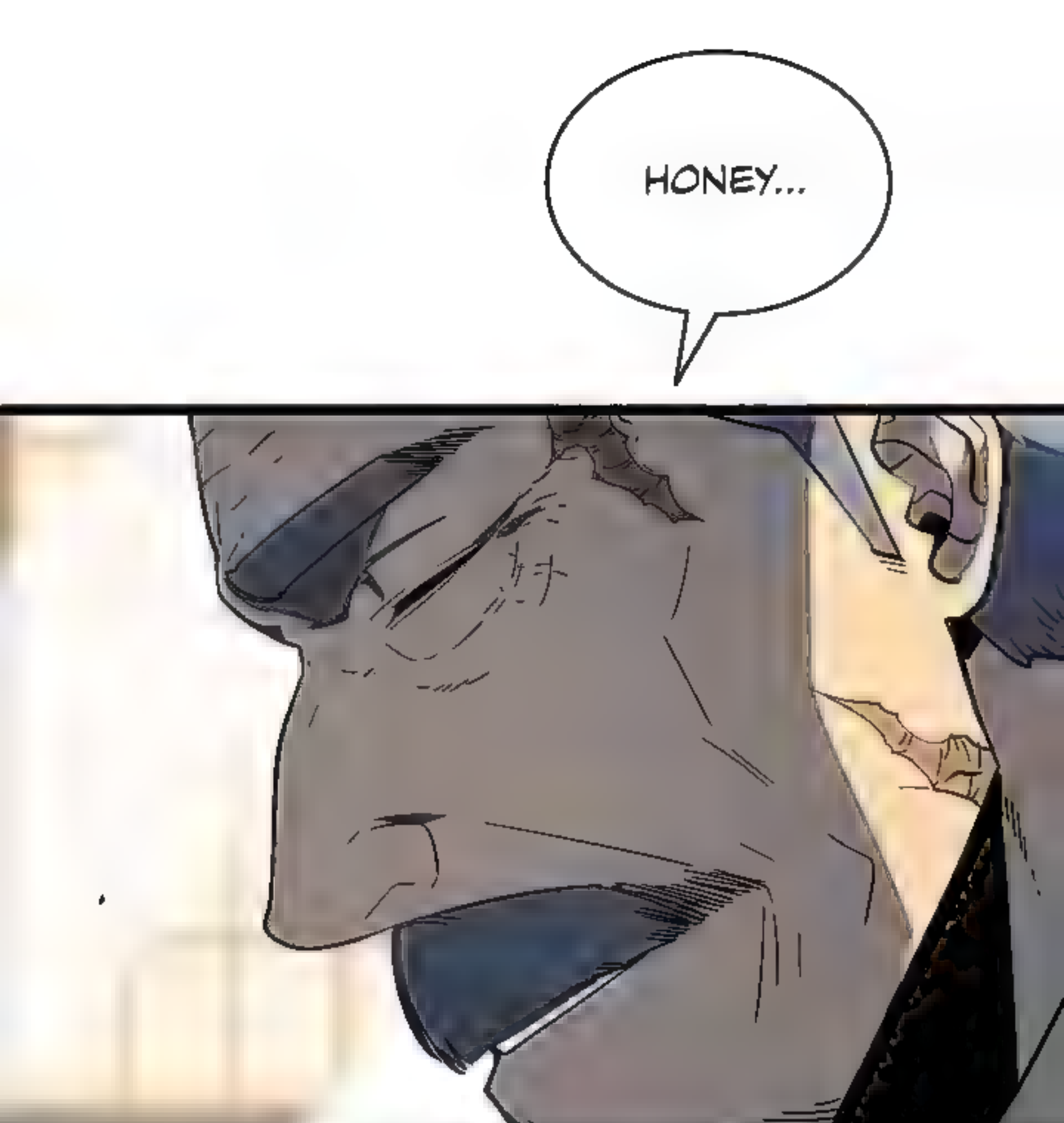


MY DOCTOR TOLD
ME I COULD DIE WITHIN
THE NEXT SIX MONTHS
IF I DIDN'T RETIRE
RIGHT AWAY.

BUT A YEAR WENT
BY, THEN ANOTHER...
AND HERE I AM
NOW.

IF THIS IS AS FAR
AS I CAN GO, THERE'S
NOT MUCH I CAN DO
ABOUT IT. AT LEAST
I'VE MANAGED TO
MAKE IT THIS FAR.





OF COURSE
NOTHING BAD
HAPPENED. IN FACT,
I WAS JUST ABOUT
TO HEAD HO...

LEAN



JOLT

W...WHAT
THE HELL?

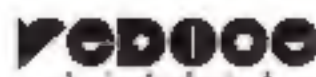
HOW CAN
THIS BE...?





To Be Continued...

Solo Leveling



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